

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1208

By West

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate William Edward Rice, Jr., and Virginia "Ginger" Crockett Rice on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 1960, William Edward Rice, Jr., and Virginia "Ginger" Crockett were joined in holy matrimony in Florence, Alabama, and since that fateful day this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, the first child of Mamie Smith and W.E. Rice, Sr., Ed Rice is a 1956 graduate of Mt. Juliet High School, where he played varsity football and basketball; and

WHEREAS, the second daughter of Ann Spence and Paul Crockett, Ginger Crockett Rice is a 1959 graduate of Peabody Demonstration School, where she was voted "Wittiest" by her classmates; and

WHEREAS, Ed and Ginger first met while they were attending Tennessee Technological University, and they began dating soon thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Ed gave Ginger an engagement ring during Christmas of 1959, and the young couple eloped to Florence, Alabama, on May 28, 1960; and

WHEREAS, after the nuptials, Mr. Rice built an outstanding career at Ford Glass Plant, from which he retired as a valued employee after thirty years of service; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rice worked several jobs until she had her first child, and then she kept the home fires burning for many years as a devoted wife and Super Mom, attending countless sporting and outdoor activities with and for her children; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Mr. Rice took over his family's business, Edward Rice and Son Country Hams; Ed and Ginger worked assiduously, side by side, to transform the business from a small family concern into a large direct-shipping and retail operation that is renowned throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Rices' delicious hams have won numerous awards and have claimed numerous Grand Championships at both the Wilson County Fair and the Tennessee State Fair; and

WHEREAS, their acclaimed hams have also been prominently featured on several television shows, including Tennessee Crossroads, Nick Beres Morning Line, The Martha Stewart Show, and The Larry Brinton Show; and

WHEREAS, this fine couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced three children, each of whom has excelled in his or her field of endeavor; the Rices' children are Vicki Ann Rice, William Edward Rice III, and Virginia Lynn Rice; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Rices' truly represent the best and brightest of our society, as they remind us of the intrinsic value of continuity and commitment in this ever changing world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the family and friends of William Edward Rice, Jr. and Virginia "Ginger" Crockett Rice in celebrating this exemplary couple's 50th wedding anniversary and extend to Mr. and Mrs. Rice our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.